

REMARKS

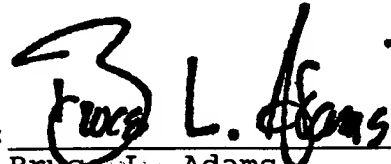
In the last Action, restriction was required among ten groups. The Examiner stated that the ten inventions are patentably distinct from each other, thereby making restriction proper. Applicants were required to elect one of the ten inventions for further prosecution in this application.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicants have provisionally elected Group A, drawn to a near-field optical head in general for recording or reproducing information data from an optical storage medium, and submit that claims 1-10, 11-14, 101, 103 and 104 are readable on the elected invention. The non-elected claims have been retained in the application pending possible withdrawal of the restriction requirement or applicants' decision to pursue the subject matter thereof in a continuing application.

In light of the foregoing, early and favorable  
action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**MAILING CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Donna Riccardulli  
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FEBRUARY 22, 2006  
Date